Barmouth M.D.
1925

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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4 - MAY 1927
A.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Barmouth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the Urban District of Barmouth for the Year 1925.

Area (in acres): 1.097.

Population Census 1921 3559. Estimated 1925 2125.

Physical features and general character of the area:-

Barmouth is situated on the shores of Cardigan Bay at the foot of the Duffws range of mountains which at this point runs close to the shore leaving only a narrow flat piece of land for building purposes. These mountains shelter it from the East and North East winds. On the south the boundary is the Mawddach Estuary. The climate is exceptionally mild in Winter. The soil is sandy.

Number of inhabited houses (1921):- about 500.

Number of families or separate occupiers 1921:- about 500

Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate:-

The rateable value is £16623 and the produce of a penny rate is £56

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants and the influence of any particular occupation on public health.

There is no industry in the area. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in letting their houses and catering for visitors during the summer months.

Vital Statistics:-

Births: 35:- 14 Males, 21 Females Rate 16.4 per 1000

Deaths 32. 13 Males 19 Females Rate 15.0 per 1000.

Phthisis death rate 0.9

Tuberculosis death rate 1.4

Cancer death rate 1.8

Infant mortality 28.5

Maternal Death rate per 1000 births

From Sepsis - nil -

From other causes 28.5

Both combined 28.5

The amount of Poor Law relief, the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilized.

The amount of relief granted in 1925 amounted to £602

There is no hospital in the area. There is a poor law institution in the Merion Sanitary District in the area.

There have been no causes of sickness or invalidity of special noteworthy in the area during the period under review nor any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council

1. Tuberculosis :- Subsidized by County Council. There is no hospital for such in the area nor within the County. The nearest being at Machynlleth about 20 miles distant. The residential Institution controlled by the Welsh National Memorial Institution are available for the treatment of patients from this area.
2. Maternity = Nil
3. Children = Nil
4. Fevers = Nil
5. Small Pox = Nil
6. Other = Nil

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance facilities (a) For infectious cases nil.
(b) For non-infectious and accident cases = nil

Clinics and Treatment centres

Maternity welfare centre —— nil

Child Welfare Centre (Consultation only) Subsidized by County Council.

Day Nurseries nil

School Clinics County medical officer.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Visiting Stations subsidized by County Council

Treatment centre for Venereal Diseases at Bangor distance about 50 miles subsidized by County Council.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Sanitary Inspector (with necessary qualifications) for the area, also acting as Surveyor Medical Officer Part-time

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) Generally

There is a nurse resident in the district, supported by voluntary contributions and managed by a local nursing committee, which is affiliated with the Queen's nursing association. There are no financial arrangements or scheme of co-ordination so far as the Local Authority is concerned. She receives a subsidy from the Board of Guardians also from the County Council for attendance on cases of Tuberculosis, Health Visiting and attending Infant Welfare centre.

(b) For infectious diseases - no nurse is provided for infectious disease but the nursing association have money in hand to provide a nurse for such cases should there be a bad case or severe epidemic.

Midwives. There is one midwife in the area but she is not employed by, nor does she receive any subsidy from the local Authority.

Number of midwives practising in the area - one

Chemical Work. The local Authority have no arrangements in force for chemical work. This is undertaken by the County Council.

Legislation in Force. This embraces the various Public Health acts coupled with the Public Health amendment Act of 1907, the Barmouth Local Board Act of 1891 and the Byelaws of the local Authority dealing with New Streets and Buildings, Nuisances, Common Lodging Houses, Slaughter Houses &c.

Sanitary circumstances of the area.

Water. - The water supply is obtained from Bodlyn lake, which has an area of 31 acres, the storage capacity is 100 million gallons and is such as to ensure a supply of water for a population of 20,000 for 104 days on the basis of 50 gallons per head per day. The lake is situated 7 miles from the town, there is no dwelling house or arable land within miles of it, so that it is quite free from pollution. The water is good in quality and free from plumbo-solvent action. The pipe line from the lake down to the town have been scraped and rendered free from incrustation. All the houses in the town also several houses in the outlaying area are being supplied and the supply has always constant and sufficient. The dam supporting the lake has required attention.

Rivers and streams. - No pollution has taken place.

Drainage and Sewerage. - All the houses in the area with the exception of about a dozen in outlying parts are in connection with the sewerage system. The sewerage is carried out to sea well below low water mark.

Rough years have at times loosened the joints of some of the pipes but these have always been promptly attended to.

Closet Accommodation:- All the houses in the town have water closets which are in connection with the town sewerage system. About a dozen houses in outlandish parts of the area are not in connection with the town sewerage.

Scavenging:- The roads and streets are regularly cleaned.

There is a daily collection of house refuse from all premises in the town, with but few exceptions, these being cleared two or three times a week. The work of clearing the refuse is undertaken in the early morning, and the refuse is taken direct to a suitable "Tipping Ground" where it is effectively dealt with by being turned and properly covered over; there has been a marked improvement in the matter of dealing with the house refuse during the last five years.

Sanitary Inspection of Area. Regular inspections of the area are made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. No statutory or informal notices had to be served.

Smoke Abatement:- one laundry emitted black smoke but after a personal interview the nuisance was abated.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations

Dwelling houses:- In good order.

Business premises:- Kept clean.

Slaughterhouses:- well kept and well cleaned.

Bakehouses: well kept.

Schools

There are three schools within the area, viz: a secondary school, a council school and a private school. They are all supplied by Council water and the sanitary arrangements are good.

The county medical officer examines the pupils of the secondary and council schools.

1 General housing conditions in the area:-

(1) General housing conditions. The houses generally are well built and well kept being of the lodging-house type.

(2) (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses:- Nil

(b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage:- Nil

(3) Information as to any important changes in population under review or anticipated in the future } Nil except difference between Summer and winter Population viz winter 2125 and Summer 15,000.

I. Overcrowding

(1) Extent: Nil

(2) Causes: Nil

(3) Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with overcrowding Nil

(4) Principal cases of overcrowding during the year 1925 Nil.

II. Fitness of houses

(1) (a) General standard of houses in the area:- good.

(b) General character of defects found to exist in unfit houses Nil

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants } Nil

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under

(a) The Public Health Acts:- Nil

(b) The housing acts:- — Nil

(3) Difficulties found in remedying unfitness either under the Public Health Acts or under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925 etc. } Nil

(4) Conditions so far as they effect housing as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal together with measures taken during the year in these matters. } Nil

IV. Unhealthy Areas:-

No complaints received or representations made.

V. Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings and to tents, vans, sheds &c,

(1) As to working of existing byelaws } These need revision in the matter

(2) As to need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws } of the building of new houses so as to bring them up to date

VI. General and miscellaneous

Appeals have been made, with good results, to the residents to burn as much refuse as possible in their own dwelling houses and to provide proper receptacles for the holding of refuse until the same is removed. Bins have been provided by the local authority for holding refuse in convenient parts.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) 1

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts.

I. By the Local Authority Nil

II. By other bodies or persons Nil

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Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection - (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 24

(2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. 21

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the foregoing sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 5.

(5) Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notice

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 5.

Action under Statutory Powers.

A - Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs nil

2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners nil

(b) By local authority in default of owners nil

3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close nil

B - Proceedings under Public Health acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-

(a) By owners nil

(b) By local authority in default of owners nil

C. - Proceedings under section 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders

2. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made

3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.

4. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made

5. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply:- The milk supplied to the area is good in quality and quantity. The bulk of milk is brought from outside the area. Samples of the milk are taken periodically by the police and sent for examination.

I No actions have been taken place as to tuberculosis milk or tuberculosis cattle.

II No licences granted for the sale of milk under special designations &c.

III No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers

IV The summarized results of the bacteriological examination of samples of graded or other milk are in custody of the police

(b). Meat.

I The Sanitary Inspector discharges the duty of meat inspector and pays periodical visits to the Slaughter houses and shops

II The Sanitary Inspector sees to the administration of the Public Health Meat regulations 1924

III There are no public Slaughterhouses

Number of private Slaughter houses in the area

	1920	Jan 1925	Dec 1925
Registered	Nil		
Licences	Nil	3	3
Total		3	3

II. (c) other foods.

All the bakehouses are in a satisfactory state of sanitation

(d) There has been no case of food poisonous in the area.

Infectious diseases

With the exception of measles there has not been an epidemic of Infectious diseases in the area.

Diphtheria anti toxin is kept by M. O. H.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens are in the hands of the County Medical officer of health.

No cases of diphtheria and only one case of Scarlet Fever has been reported. It was not necessary to resort to the Schick and Dick tests.

No primary or revaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of health under the Public Health (Small pox prevention) Regulations 1917.

Other diseases have required special attention

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospitals	Total Deaths
Small Pox			
Scarlet Fever	1	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria			
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)			
Puerperal Fever.			
Pneumonia			
Other diseases generally notify			
Other diseases notifiable locally.			

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M.	F	M.	F
0								
1								
5								
10-								
15								
20-								
25-								
35-	1	–	–		1	–	–	
45								
55								
65 and upwards.								
Totals	1				1			

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925

No action necessary.

Public Health Act 1925 Section 62.

No Action necessary.

There is an Infant Welfare Centre which meets once a fortnight. The centre is well attended and the mothers appreciate the advice given. There is a marked difference in the children since the centre was first formed

Ophthalmia neonatorum

Cases Notified	Cases Treated at Home	Cases Treated In Hospital	Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

I am,
Gentlemen
Your obedient servant,
J. Williams
Medical Officer of Health

White

1925

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